

DOJ Declassification/Release Decision on File

Approved For Release 2001/08/29 : CIA-RDP78-04445A000100030001-1

TOP SECRET

**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Washington**

December 10, 1954

**TS 58520
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BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Lawrence R. Houston, Esquire
General Counsel
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Houston:

Reference is made to a letter dated October 21, 1954, addressed to the Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, by Mr. [REDACTED] Acting General Counsel, Central Intelligence Agency, concerning Messrs. [REDACTED]

In this letter the CIA suggested that the Department designate a representative "to come into (the CISO for as full a briefing as may be required to get an understanding of the overall foreign arms procurement program and the relation to it of the various individuals" of concern to us. It was also stated that the CIA would be pleased to "have such a representative review any and all investigative reports (of the CIA) directed to possible violations of law."

In accordance with this suggestion an attorney of the Criminal Division has recently participated in several conferences with Mr. [REDACTED] and other representatives of the CIA.

As a result of these conferences we understand the position of the CIA to be that the national security precludes any public disclosure concerning the foreign arms procurement program or the CIA's connection with it.

While we are of the opinion that at present there is insufficient evidence upon which to predicate prosecutive action in this matter, nevertheless, we are also of the opinion that the possibility that further investigation might well reveal facts constituting a violation of 18 U.S.C. 202 cannot be discounted.

However, assuming that sufficient evidence could be developed by additional investigation, a prosecution would necessarily include public testimony relating to the foreign arms procurement program and the CIA's activities in that regard.

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Consequently it appears that prosecution in any event would not be feasible, and we therefore contemplate taking no further action in the matter.

Your cooperation in making available to our representative the pertinent data in your files is appreciated.

Sincerely,

WARREN OLNEY III
Assistant Attorney General

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